

XXI. *Observations on the Species of Elateridæ described by Mr. Curtis in the First Part of the Third Volume of the New Series of the Transactions of the Entomological Society of London.* By E. W. JANSON, Esq.

[Read 5th March, 1855.]

1. *Ectinus aterrimus*, Linn. I perfectly agree with Mr. Curtis that this insect has, at present, no claim whatever to a place in our lists, into which it has been introduced both by Mr. Curtis and Mr. Stephens.
 2. *Ectinus?* *gagates*, Curtis; *Elater aterrimus*, Curtis, *olim*, but not of Linné. This insect does not pertain to the genus *Ectinus*; the anterior margin of the head or clypeus projects over the upper lip, which takes a perpendicular direction, and is at nearly a right angle with the clypeus, and the covers of the posterior thighs are dilated internally and furnished with a large tooth; characters totally at variance with those upon which the illustrious and accurate Eschscholtz, (between whose distribution and that of Latreille, Mr. Curtis has drawn a comparison unfavourable to the former,) has founded the genus.
- Mr. Curtis's insect is *Ampedus lugens* of Redtenbacher, and of which the late learned Professor of Halle, Dr. Germar, has given an excellent description in his "Zeitschrift für die Entomologie," v. p. 177, No. 40, (1844). It is the *Ampedus anthracinus* of Dejean's Catalogue, under which name I have received it from Paris, where, I believe, it is not of uncommon occurrence. Two British specimens, now in my hands, appertain to the rich collection of our indefatigable treasurer, Mr. S. Stevens.
3. *N. G.?* *punctolineatus*, Zool. Journ. iv p. 524, *Ectinus aterrimus* of the Stephensian cabinet.

It appears to me that Mr. Pelerin's name should have been added to the specific title adopted by Mr. Curtis for this insect, but which is a Fabrician species; the *Elater niger* of the "Systema Eleutheratorum," ii. p. 227 (1801), but probably not of Linné, recognizably figured by Panzer in the 101st

fasciculus, plate 16, of his "Deutschlands Insecten," and described under the name of *Cratonychus niger* by the late Dr. Erichson in his usual masterly style, in his monograph of the genus in Germar's Zeitschrift, iii. p. 90, No. 1 (1841). I will add that it is congeneric with the *Melanotus fulvipes* of British cabinets, having the claws toothed internally after the fashion of a comb, a circumstance not noticed in Mr. Curtis's Memoir, although stated on the wrapper of the subsequently published part of the Transactions. This insect occurs abundantly throughout central and southern Europe. I have examples from Germany, France and the Ionian Islands; I likewise possess one of the original specimens, described by Mr. Pelerin in the Zoological Journal, captured by him near Twickenham, as mentioned by Mr. Curtis, and which has been kindly ceded to me by Mr. Thomas Desvignes, to whom I am likewise indebted for an opportunity of examining one of the examples captured by Mr. Marshall near Deal. To Mr. Pascoe I have also to tender my thanks for a remarkably fine male specimen taken by him last spring in the same locality, and to the liberality of Mr. S. Stevens I owe the possession of a specimen found by him at Southend. Mr. Westwood has three individuals, which, I believe, are females of the present species, but I will not positively affirm that they are so, not having had an opportunity of bestowing upon them sufficient examination; they were picked up by him dead on Barnes Common.

4. *Elater nigrinus*, Payk., Curtis. This is the insect described by Germar, Zeitschrift, v. p. 175, No. 35, as *Ampedus nigrinus*, and universally known on the continent under that name; a specimen received from Mr. Curtis agrees perfectly with foreign individuals in my collection sent me from France and Germany so named; it is readily recognized by the transverse wrinkles on the interstices of the elytra.

I may mention, that *Elater rufitarsis*, Desvignes, Entomologist, p. 326 (1842), captured by that gentleman in Windsor Forest, is synonymous with the species now under consideration, and which appears to have a wide range in Britain, individuals having been taken by Messrs. Weaver and Foxcroft, at Rannoch, Perthshire.

5. *Aplotarsus maritimus*, Curtis.

If the insects placed in this genus by the late Mr. Stephens may be considered typical, (and, seeing that the genus was established by him for their reception, I hold such must be the case,) the present species is certainly not an *Aplotarsus*; I have not yet been able satisfactorily to identify it with any of the continental species of the genus *Cardiophorus*, with which I have had an opportunity of comparing it, but to which genus I think it is referrible, although departing somewhat from the type in the unusual length of the antennæ, but it appears to have the prosternum abbreviated and compressed at its apex, and the posterior thigh-covers are suddenly dilated within. I possess a single mutilated specimen, which I obtained from Mr. Curtis.

6. *Cardiophorus formosus*, Curtis. Mr. Curtis indicates its close relationship to *Cardiophorus sex-punctatus* of Illiger, and which is probably too intimate to admit of specific distinction, Illiger himself having given six varieties of that Protean species.7. *Aplotarsus? cothurnatus*, Curtis. This insect does not belong to the genus *Aplotarsus* of Stephens; it is the *Ampedus subcarinatus* of Germar, *Zeitschrift*, v. p. 177, No. 39 (1844), where it is fully described: it is the *Ampedus tibialis* of Dejean's Catalogue, under which name I have received it from Paris. Specimens have been taken by Mr. G. Guyon, in Richmond Park; by Mr. S. Stevens at Tooting Common, and by myself at Wanstead.